



King County

Department of Development and Environmental Services

900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest
Renton, WA 98057-5212

206-296-6600 TTY 206-296-7217

www.kingcounty.gov

DDES Fee Surcharge – Three Special Purposes

The fee surcharge was established by ordinance to fund the following activities that are necessary to serving DDES permit applicants:

- DDES is amid a multi-year implementation of a new permitting software application that will be integrated with other departments in the County and will allow for enhanced services, such as the ability for some customers to apply for their permits on-line and pay on-line with a credit card.
- In an effort to reduce operating costs and improve customer service, DDES is working to become more accessible to the department's customer base by relocating closer to the rural unincorporated area—both east of the urban areas and also with a small satellite on Vashon Island. With each major annexation, DDES is serving fewer and fewer urban areas.
- As development activities slowed over the years, DDES found it necessary to downsize its staff and draw down the working capital used for day-to-day operations.

DDES is a self-supporting department and receives less than ten percent of its total budget from the General Fund. So, to meet the special business needs mentioned above DDES had at least two options: 1) roll these permitting costs into our regular fees as overhead; or 2) be transparent about it. DDES opted to be transparent and proposed a temporary surcharge in the 2011 budget. The surcharge will expire in four years and must be used for the three specific purposes above.